GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1896
ANSWERED ON:19.08.2013
PROTECTION TO GOATS IN KBR
Rai Shri Prem Das

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has taken note of the skin disease spreading amongst Ghoral, Shapi and other mountain goats in the Khangchendzonga Biosphere Reserve (KBR):

(b) if so, the details and the main cause of such disease; and

(c) the preventive steps taken by the Government in this regard ?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN)

(a) & (b) As informed by the State Government of Sikkim, skin disease has been found amongst Ghoral, Shapi and other mountain goats in the Khangchendzonga Biosphere Reserve (KBR):

The State Government has collected the samples from the carcasses for identifying the causative organisms. The samples were sent to NodalCentre for Wildlife Health and Disease, Guwahati. The Results indicated organ damage possible due to plant toxins and lesions due to photo - sensitization.

Samples of infected Domestic Goats grazing in Reserve Forests were investigated by State Animal Husbandry Department Disease Investigation Cell, Gangtok and diagnosed as severe mange with heavy mite infection.

(c) Steps taken by the State Government for the preventive action in this regard are as follows:

1. Cattle immunization has been carried out in fringe villages.

2. Awareness programmes has been conducted to control gazing of domestic livestock in KBR.

3. Communication has been initiated with local agency supplying Meat-on-Hoof (live animals) to defence personnel stationed in vulnerable high attitude areas to check possibility of trans / cross border spread of infectious diseases among domestic and wild herbivores in nearby areas.

4. Detailed study has been taken lup in collaboration with State Animal husbandry, Livestock, Fisheries and Veterinary Services Department involving field investigations, laboratory diagnostics and subsequent prophylactie measures depending on the diseases.